

# Executive Order 2008-01: Progress Highlights

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- The Department of Economic Security (DES)/Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) was awarded a \$1.5 million federal assistance grant to develop the Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T. (AFF) Parent to Parent Recovery Program in Maricopa County. This program enhances existing AFF client services by utilizing peer recovery coaches for methamphetamine-using parents, at no extra cost to the state, and funds an additional staff person to coordinate this program, freeing up the other AFF statewide coordinators to spend their time and resources working around the state.
- ADHS/DBHS has expanded the capacity to serve those in need of stabilization services in rural areas of the state by opening substance abuse stabilization centers in Payson, Yuma, Globe, Holbrook and Winslow. This expansion provides an additional capacity to serve CPS involved families in need of substance abuse treatment services in a manner that is timely and meets their treatment needs.
- The average length of time of treatment for AFF clients increased from 159 days to 165 days, a positive outcome in ensuring that clients receive adequate treatment to ensure success. Substance abuse treatment and recovery is a long process, and providing additional days of treatment is a tangible way to assist CPS involved families with substance abuse issues.
- The inability for clients to obtain Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) eligibility has been an impediment to accessing treatment for families involved with Child Protective Services (CPS). Within DES, AFF and the Family Assistance Administration (FAA) have worked together to improve clients' chances of gaining eligibility and thus to have the funding available to pay for the substance abuse treatment services they require. Strategies have been employed to acquire the information necessary to assist a client with applying for a birth certificate, as well as to educate providers about the acceptable documents that may be used to establish residency.
- DHS/DBHS has incorporated language into the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) contract amendments that directs contractors to instruct subcontracted providers to screen all AFF clients for Title XIX/XXI eligibility. This will free up state funds in order to serve more clients.
- The Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) has incorporated the prioritization of CPS involved families for substance abuse treatment services into their priority ranking system for inmates in need of treatment to ensure that inmates whose families are involved with CPS receive the treatment they need while incarcerated. The delivery of substance abuse treatment to inmates whose family members are involved with CPS will help to ensure that upon their release their families and children will be safer and more secure.
- DES will implement a revised CPS Child Safety Assessment/Strengths and Risk Assessment/Case Plan tool by the end of 2008 which will provide a better determination of the prevalence of substance abuse in CPS investigations resulting in the provision of appropriate and necessary services to CPS families, including children.
- The Arizona Parents Commission on Drug Education and Prevention (Parents Commission), which is staffed and administered through the Governor's Office (GOCYF) /Division for Substance Abuse Policy has issued a Request for Grant Proposals for programs that target the incorporation of comprehensive family care into substance abuse treatment. These programs will provide essential family skills training programs to CPS involved substance abuse treatment clients, improving their chances of successful parenting and improving the safety of their children.
- ADJC is currently reviewing a proposal to convert a general population unit to a chemical dependency treatment unit, a result of their analyses of treatment capacity. This conversion would create an additional fifth unit for chemical dependency and would increase the number of beds available to adjudicated youth in need of treatment services. In turn, this would increase the state's capacity to provide substance abuse treatment services to CPS involved children.